Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

Project Title: Georgia Interconnected Learning Network

Project Type: Sustainable Broadband Adoption

_______________________ Executive Summary _______________________

a. Currently many of the State Agencies in Georgia create high quality but difficult to access or difficult to distribute intellectual output. These materials include but are not limited to live training classes and educational documentation. b. The Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS) BTOP grant application provides a unique opportunity to address the critical needs of our key community anchor institutions. The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (BOR) through GPLS has provided broadband access to all public libraries in the State of Georgia for the past 11 years. With additional funding GPLS can increase the bandwidth available to these libraries, which will allow the libraries to stream, capture, and distribute educational programming across Georgia. Specifically, we are seeking funds to increase the bandwidth available in all 61 library headquarters and to install Cisco Telepresence, and a mobile computer lab in each of the 61 system libraries, the GPLS offices, and the State Archives. Additionally, GPLS will also use these funds to create a digital repository of educational and informational material that will be accessible via broadband technology globally. The Georgia Interconnected Learning Network will create the opportunity for these agencies to provide, not only, real time web casted educational programming and also digitally capture these materials in a state wide repository where they could be accessed by anyone at anytime, anywhere they have a broadband connection. c. The initial project, in partnership with the Georgia Extension Service, would target the southwestern and southeastern agricultural areas of the State. Many of these counties fall with in a group identified by Georgia's Governor as the '91 Counties in Persistent Poverty' and could potentially reach up to 200,000 Georgians. d. GPLS, a division of BOR, is well placed to implement this project. Currently GPLS provides broadband access (in the form of T-1 lines) into all public libraries in the State through AT&T and Georgia Public Web. GPLS also manages the Public Information Network for Electronic Services (PINES). PINES is a collaborative group of 275 libraries across the State of Georgia which share a single integrated library system that serves over 2 million registered patrons. As part of this service, GPLS fostered the development of Evergreen, one of the first open source integrated library systems. Evergreen is now in use across the U.S. and in Canada. In order to insure access to PINES, GPLS maintains a data center with redundant power and data. e. This project will create three jobs including a Systems Administrator, a Web Developer and an Instructional Technologies. f. The overall cost for this project will be $8,053,148.